

Brief History of UH Archives & Manuscripts

The University of Hawaii Archives as a separate entity began in 1969 under the direction of Frances Jackson, who served as archivist until 1981. There was no full-time archivist between 1981 and 1988; David Kittleson, Hawaiian Librarian, provided access and reference to the materials.

In fall 1988, James Cartwright joined the Special Collections Dept. as University Archivist, working with library assistant Sherman Seki on UH Archives and manuscript collections. Ellen Chapman came onboard part time in 1997 to process the voluminous papers of Spark M. Matsunaga, which served as the cornerstone of the Hawaii Congressional Papers Collection (officially established July 1998).

In March 2002 Jan Zastrow was hired as Hawaii Congressional Papers Archivist; in July 2004, she was asked to establish the Archives & Manuscripts Department and to serve as its first department head. Laura Capell was brought on as a project archivist from Sept. 2004 through June 2006, establishing the Japanese American Veterans Collection (JAVC) and writing an NEH grant to preserve and enhance access to the Hawaii War Records Depository (HWRD). The centennial celebration of the university (2007-2008) ensures the continued growth of the Archives & Manuscripts Department well into the future.

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Submitted by Jan Zastrow, July 3, 2006.